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Bookbinder 16-6-1

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Serial No: 09/447,077

Examiner: TBA

Filed: November 22, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1731

For: METHODS FOR PROTECTING SILICA-  
CONTAINING ARTICLE AND INHIBITING  
BREAKS DURING DRAWING OF OPTICAL  
FIBER, AND SILICA-CONTAINING  
ARTICLE PROTECTED AGAINST BREAK-  
INDUCING PARTICULATES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 - 1.98

Honorable Asst. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, DC 20231

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Dear Sir:

The Examiner's attention is hereby directed to the following reference(s) listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 for consideration in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. One copy of the reference(s) is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the enclosed documents constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the submitted documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant(s) reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant(s) further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the enclosed references, should one or more of the references be applied against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 2, 2000

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Asst. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 2, 2000

Date of Deposit

Robert L. Carlson

Name of applicant, assignee, or  
Registered Representative

Signature

March 2, 2000

Date of Signature